AACR Scholar-in-Training Awards

2026 AACR Scholar-in-Training Awards

Early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026 were generously supported by gifts from donors.

AACR Scholar-In-Training Awards Supported by a Gift from Alfred and Cathy Fraser

Early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026 were generously supported by a gift from Alfred and Cathy Fraser.

Stephen Jun Fei Chong, PhD, National University of Singapore, Singapore. **Abstract 5674.** CD47 blockade induces necroptosis and complements the effects of BCL-2 inhibition in hematologic malignancies.

Nicolas Di Siervi, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 3982.** FGFR1+ cancer-associated fibroblasts contribute to the failure of CAR-T cell therapy in B-cell lymphoma through the secretion of TGFβ.

Yulong Wei, PhD, Yale University, New Haven, CT. **Abstract 4995.** LAMP3+ migratory dendritic cells establish immune-accessible tumor microenvironment in non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

AACR Scholar-In-Training Awards Supported by a Gift from Stan Divorski and Nancy Staisey

This award was funded by a generous gift from Stan Divorski and Nancy Staisey to support an early career scientist presenting exceptional research in the fields of lung and prostate cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Yixiang Li, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA. **Abstract 3528.** EED drives the small cell lung cancer neuroendocrine phenotype in lung cancer histological transformation.

Aleksandar Obradovic, MD, PhD, Columbia University, New York, NY. **Abstract 7419.** Comprehensive Profiling of Primary and Metastatic Prostate Tumors Reveals Distinct Tumor and Fibroblast Cell States Associated with Androgen-Resistance.

AACR-Agilent Scholar-in-Training Awards

Early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026 were generously supported by Agilent Technologies.

Hassan Mohammed Abushukair, MD, University of Oklahoma Stephenson Cancer Center, Oklahoma City, OK. **Abstract 5212.** Clinical characterization of immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced myocarditis and the triple M overlap syndrome.

Magali Berton, BSc, IBYME, CONICET, Buenos Aires, Argentina. **Abstract 2241.** Galectin 1 as a regulator of hormone driven mammary remodeling and early dissemination with therapeutic potential in breast cancer.

Yuanchang Fang, MSc, University Health Network, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 1126.** Pervasive early dissemination in pancreatic cancer uncovered by tissue-paired plasma whole-genomes.

Scott C. Friedland, MD, PhD, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. **Abstract 468.** Leveraging single-cell multiomics for a generalizable approach to differentiation therapy.

Victoria Gibson, MS, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. **Abstract 4039.** Deletion of peroxiredoxin 3 (PRX3) impairs mitochondrial bioenergetics and tumor growth in mesothelioma, supporting the first in human clinical testing of the PRX3 inhibitor RSO-021.

Yan (Jennifer) Gu, PhD, Yale University, New Haven, CT. **Abstract 564.** Clonal Diversity Drives Cooperative Growth in Lung Cancer.

Emma Guilbaud, PhD, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 6602.** Venetoclax enhances radiation-induced anticancer immunity in breast cancer.

Haocong (Katherine) Ma, MS, Yale University, New Haven, CT. **Abstract 222.** Aberrant T cell proliferation in HIV associated clonal hematopoiesis.

Raul Navaridas Fernandez de Bobadilla, PhD, Columbia University, New York, NY. **Abstract 6102.** *In vivo* CRISPR screening of chromatin regulators reveals p53-dependent drivers of lung metastasis in esophageal cancer.

Jacob T. Rosenthal, MSc, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY. **Abstract 1393.** Design of a prospective implementation study to evaluate the efficacy of an AI-assisted workflow intervention to increase breast cancer clinical trial participation.

Rahul Roy, MSc, Columbia University, New York, NY. **Abstract 5952.** A Unifying Mechanism for Shared Splicing Aberrations in Splicing Factor Mutant Cancers.

Cong Xing, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX. **Abstract 7401.** STING proton channel function controls T cell survival and tumor immune evasion.

Deep Kumari Yadav, PhD, National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Health, Frederick, MD. **Abstract 2875.** Toll-like receptor 4 deletion promotes bacterial burden and cutaneous tumorigenesis in mice lacking one *Ikkα* allele in keratinocytes.

So Hyun, Yoon, PhD, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. **Abstract 2052.** miR-342-5p: A Promising Tumor Suppressor in Diffuse Pleural Mesothelioma.

AACR-American Brain Tumor Association Scholar-in-Training Awards

The American Brain Tumor Association has graciously donated funds to support young investigators who will be presenting high quality abstracts in brain cancer resarch for both primary and secondary (metastatic) brain tumors at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Christine Ann Pittman Ballard, MPH, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. **Abstract 5061.** Allele frequency variation in people of European and admixed African ancestry in the United States do not fully explain incidence differences in adult-type diffuse glioma.

Akanksha S. Mahajan, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 6392.** Harnessing facial neuronal pathways via iontophoresis for targeted intradermal delivery of bimodal spherical nucleic acids to the brain for anti-glioma effect.

Luca Zanella, PhD, Columbia University, New York, NY. **Abstract 6858.** Single-cell elucidation of molecularly distinct states and therapeutic vulnerabilities in IDH-mutant glioma.

AACR-Barbara Campbell Creighton Scholar-in-Training Awards

These awards were funded by a generous donation from the Barabara Campbell Creighton Award Fund to support early career scientists presenting exceptional research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Seyedehalaleh Anvar, DVM, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. **Abstract 4087.** Senescent cancer cells facilitate metastasis by adhesion-mediated clustering and immune modulation.

Meriem Belabed, PhD, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY. **Abstract 6787.** Metabolic reuse of tumor-derived signals coordinates dendritic cell function.

Putzer J. Hung, MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 1365.** Regulation of Ribosomal RNA Synthesis in Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

Katherine A. Lawson-Michod, PhD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA. **Abstract 6815.** Biologic processes enriched in the primary tumors of invasive breast cancer patients with disseminated tumor cells.

Yizhe Song, MBBS, Washington University, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 1283.** Asymmetric emergence of cardiovascular disease in hematologic malignancy survivors: A national real-world analysis.

Sara-Jayne Thursby, PhD, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 1358.** Promoter methylation gains in aging and cancer are independent of replication.

Irma M. Vlasac, MS, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. **Abstract 6813.** Characterization of high-grade serous ovarian cancer copy number alterations in Black and White Women.

Hyerim Yi, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA. **Abstract 4065.** EcDNA-borne structural variants drive oncogenic fusion transcript amplification.

Zeda Zhang, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 6791.** Target chronic inflammation in cancer and fibrosis with engineered immune cells.

AACR-Breast Cancer Research Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards in Memory of Rebecca Scheinkman

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation has graciously donated funds to support young investigators who will be presenting high quality abstracts in breast cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026. This year, this funding has been given by the Breast Cancer Research Foundation to honor the memory of Rebecca Scheinkman.

Stanislav Drapela, PhD, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL. **Abstract 6129.** Microenvironmentally-driven dynamic deposition of histone H3.3 controls entry and exit from dormancy in disseminated cancer cells.

Srushti Kittane, MS, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 3226.** FOXA1 alterations drive endocrine therapy resistance through unique transcriptional and epigenomic programs in breast cancer.

AACR-Chris CJ Johnson Foundation and Kidney Cancer Association Scholar-in-Training Award

The Chris CJ Johnson Foundation and Kidney Cancer Association have graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a high quality abstract focused on kidney cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Pankaj Kumar Chauhan, PhD, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 1468.** Germline whole exome sequencing implicates homologous recombination repair pathway genes as risk factors in SMARCB1 deficient renal medullary phenotypes without sickle hemoglobinopathies.

AACR-Chromophobe and Oncocytic Tumor Alliance Scholar-in-Training Award

The Chromophobe and Oncocytic Tumor Alliance has graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a high quality abstract focused on chromophobe and oncocytic tumor research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Wafaa Bzeih, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 4965.** Sarcomatoid transformation rewires the immune spatial landscape and checkpoint regulation in chromophobe renal cell carcinoma.

AACR-CIHR Scholar-in-Training Awards

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) donated funds to support early career Canadian investigators who will be

presenting meritorious research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Sofiane Berrazouane, PhD, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada. **Abstract 1595.** Combining DNA methylation inhibition and STING agonist in the treatment of metastatic triple-negative breast cancer.

Kevin Cheng, MPhil, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 2681.** Past exposure to genotoxic cancer therapies is associated with elevated local mutagenesis at CTCF binding sites in metastatic tumors.

Jasmine Ryu Won Kang, HBSc, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 1462.** Cell type-specific somatic variants captured from single-cell RNA sequencing underlie transcriptional programs in pre-malignant blood.

Yoshimasa Kudo, BSc, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 7240.** Multi-omic analysis identifies BACH2 transcription factor as key epigenetic and transcriptional repressor driving drug-tolerance to targeted therapy in EGFR-mutant lung adenocarcinoma.

Farag E.S. Mosa, PhD, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada. **Abstract 5127.** Structure-guided discovery of potent and selective DGKα inhibitors for targeted cancer therapy.

Tala-Maria Mouannes, BS, McGill University, Montréal, QC, Canada. **Abstract 7457.** IL-33-mediated control of myeloid immunity in glioblastoma progression.

Rita Nehmé, PhD, Centre Armand-Frappier - INRS, Laval, QC, Canada. **Abstract 4349.** Development of galectin-1 and galectin-7-specific inhibitors: Immunotherapy and molecular imaging in triple-negative breast cancer.

Lucas Penny, BSc, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 7510.** Molecular and clinical correlates of extrachromosomal DNA in oral squamous cell carcinoma.

Hannah Plummer, BS, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada. **Abstract 7300.** SMARCA4 loss in endometrial cancer induces cell fate chaos concomitant with the senescence associated secretory phenotype and aberrant regulation of mTOR.

Paula R. Quaglietta, BSc, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 3282.** Metabolic reprogramming in Li-Fraumeni Syndrome underlies the pre-cancer niche and cancer predisposition.

AACR-Debbie's Dream Foundation Scholar-in-Training Award

Debbie’s Dream Foundation has graciously donated funds to support young investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts in the field of stomach cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Sung-Hyun Hwang, PhD, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Seongnam, South Korea. **Abstract 6772.** VEGFR2 blockade overcomes acquired KRAS G12D inhibitor resistance driven by PI3Kγ activation.

AACR-Doreen J. Putrah Cancer Research Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards

These awards are presented to early career investigators of meritorious abstracts to be presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026. These awards are made possible through a gracious donation from the Doreen J. Putrah Cancer Research Foundation.

Fulya Alkan, PhD, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. **Abstract 3431.** Neutrophil-like monocytes (NeuMos) with high levels of CXCL2 expression orchestrate systemic granulopoiesis and drive immunotherapy resistance in TNBC.

Duaa H. Al-Rawi, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 1207.** Multimodal profiling of STIC lesions identifies precursor states with genomic features of high grade serous ovarian cancer.

Laiba Anwar, BS, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. **Abstract 6091.** Neuronal architect Pax6 orchestrates stemness and brain metastatic progression.

Saravana Gowtham Baskaran, BE, M Eng, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 4773.** MYC drives transcriptional heterogeneity in cancer cells.

Miranda R. Cabanski-Dunning, BS, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. **Abstract 3295.** Pi3k autoinhibition dictates rras2 dependency across HER2-amplified and PI3K-mutant cancers.

Alfredo V. Chua, Jr., MD, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY. **Abstract 895.** Impact of immigration and acculturation on mortality in Asian American women with breast cancer.

Gizem Efe, PhD, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 3989.** Mutant p53 neomorphic activities drive organ-specific metastatic programs through distinct transcriptional networks.

Anna Fakhardo, PhD, Penn State University, Hershey, PA. **Abstract 6097.** In vivo CRISPR knockout screen reveals ribosome biogenesis as a driver and a potential therapeutic target for melanoma metastasis.

Tomoko Funazo, MD, PhD, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan. **Abstract 369.** Elucidation of intratumoral heterogeneity using patient-derived lung cancer cell line.

Anmol Goyal, MD, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH. **Abstract 5227.** Clone Wars: Evidence of clonal stability in a longitudinal prospective cohort of cancer survivors with serial NGS analysis.

Ahmet Hazini, PhD, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom. **Abstract 6712.** Promoting improved agnostic cross presentation of tumour antigens with an oncolytic adenovirus expressing bispecific macrophage engagers.

Calista A. Horta, PhD, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA. **Abstract 4839.** PTPRE receptor tyrosine phosphatase in matrix-stiffness-driven EMT and breast cancer metastasis.

Shriya Nitin Kamlapurkar, MS, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. **Abstract 6087.** SOX2-LGR5 signaling mediates ovarian cancer cell survival in response to loss of anchorage.

Annant Bir Kaur, MS, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. **Abstract 7484.** Self-made matrix: Tumor-derived Laminin-α5 supports pancreatic cancer cell survival and metastatic persistence.

Heena Kumra, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital/ Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. **Abstract 1781.** Improving response of pancreatic cancer to losartan: Mechanistic insights and implications for personalized therapy.

Han Gyul Lee, PhD, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC. **Abstract 3509.** Targeting Spns2 induces immunogenic cell death and systemic anti-tumor immunity to suppress metastasis.

Nan, Lin, PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 2310.** Development and validation of a plasma proteomics signature for earlier diagnosis of ovarian cancer using prospectively collected blood samples.

Adel Zaid I Mutahar, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. **Abstract 4846.** Stromal MTA1 silencing reprograms mesenchymal stem cells to suppress EMT and distant metastasis in triple-negative breast cancer.

Amin Sabet, BA, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute, New York, NY. **Abstract 4061.** Single cell transcriptomic analysis of T-SCLC patients identifies PHOX2B as a factor in NE transformation.

Sabir Salim, DVM, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK. **Abstract 2464.** Novel mechanism driving p53 loss that dictates bladder cancer aggressive phenotypes.

Roshini Saravanan, PhD, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 1959.** The potential of methylated DNA markers for accurate detection of high-risk, HPV-positive cervical lesions.

Parthasarathy Seshacharyulu, PhD, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. **Abstract 5573.** Novel ASPORIN/CRABP2 axis drives cell-state plasticity from adenocarcinoma to neuroendocrine-like prostate cancer.

Chidiebube Ugwu, MD, Jefferson-Einstein Philadelphia Hospital, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 3994.** Differences in the mutational landscape across race and sex highlight distinct TP53-associated risk in multiple myeloma.

Logan V. Vick, PhD, UC Davis, Davis, CA. **Abstract 6606.** Overcoming reduced efficacy of fractionated radiotherapy in obese mice.

Qizhen Wu, PhD, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM. **Abstract 6252.** Wildfire smoke and cancer risk in the United States: Evidence from the PLCO Trial.

Linlin Yang, MD, City of Hope, Duarte, CA. **Abstract 6614.** Targeting the G2/M checkpoint as a radiosensitizing strategy in BRAF wild-type anaplastic thyroid cancer.

Jee Hyun, Yoe, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. **Abstract 506.** High content CRISPR activation screens identified synthetically lethal RNA-based mechanisms to sensitize cancer cells to targeted T cell cytotoxicity.

Mehrdad Zarei, PhD, Case Comprehensive Cancer Center / University Hospitals, Cleveland, OH. **Abstract 512.** Wild-type IDH1 inhibition induces homologous recombination deficiency and enhances PARP inhibitor sensitivity in pancreatic cancer.

Li Zhang, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 3540.** KRAS allelic imbalance reshapes tumor evolution through selective clonal outgrowth and chromosomal instability in NSCLC.

Shu Zhang, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. **Abstract 4689.** Dynamic and defective repair of extrachromosomal DNA drives genome instability in cancer.

AACR-Draper Holdings Scholar-In-Training Award

Draper Holdings has graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a meritorious abstract in the field of lung cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Laura Eibler, BS, MS, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 1976.** Pathogenic germline KEAP1 variants drive constitutive NRF2 hyperactivation and enhanced oncogenic fitness in non small cell lung cancer.

AACR-Family of Dan Y. Zhang Scholar-In-Training Awards

The Family of Dan Y. Zhang has graciously donated funds to support young investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts in the field of liver cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Kayla Bendinelli, BS, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 5620.** Development of T cell receptor (TCR) based cellular therapy for fibrolamellar HCC uncovers role of TCR in CD4 T cell differentiation.

Wei-Ting Ku, PhD, Chang Gung University, Taoyuan, Taiwan. **Abstract 7394.** Cytokine-driven $CD38^{+}HLA\text{-}DR^{+}CD8^{+}$ T cells define a bystander program predicting poor prognosis in hepatocellular carcinoma.

Abigail Oluwafisayo Olatunji, MSC, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. **Abstract 7150.** ICA-1S targets protein kinase C-iota to inhibit the WNT/β-catenin signaling in hepatocellular carcinoma.

Tyler Yasaka, BS, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. **Abstract 90.** Histologic stratification of hepatocellular carcinoma using deep learning informed by spatial transcriptomics.

AACR-Fornasiero Scholar-In-Training Awards

Joe Fornasiero has graciously donated funds to support young investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts in the field of desmoplastic small round cell tumor research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Jiaqian Fan, MS, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 638.** Spatial organization of epithelial- and neural-like tumor phenotypes and their cellular neighborhoods in desmoplastic small round cell tumors.

Elana R. Sverdlik, BS, Louis V. Gerstner Jr. Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, New York, NY. **Abstract 4958.** Spatial transcriptomic profiling reveals heterogeneity in desmoplastic small round cell tumor.

Tom Zhang, BA, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 7271.** Clinical genomic and functional genomic support for a role of ARID1A loss in progression of Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor.

AACR-Glenn Sykes Kidney Cancer Scholar-in-Training Awards

Early career investigators who will be a presenting meritorious abstracts focused on kidney cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026 were generously supported by a gift from Glenn Sykes.

Christian Migliarese, MS, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. **Abstract 4520.** Development of terfenadine-derived small-molecule inhibitors of TFE3-O dimerization for translocation renal cell carcinoma.

Ze Zhang, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA. **Abstract 3848.** Urine cell-free DNA methylation-based deconvolution identifies tumor-specific cell types in localized urinary tract cancers.

AACR-Hallett Family Trust Scholar-in-Training Awards

Early career investigators from HBCUs who will be presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026 were generously supported by a gift from the Hallett Family Trust.

Mounika Pamukuntla, PhD, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL. **Abstract 1795.** Cooperative role of ESR1 mutations and midasin in endocrine resistance and the therapeutic potential of dual targeting.

Sudhanshu Sharma, PhD, Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL. **Abstract 1477.** Lysosomal routing geometry drives immunosuppressive secretion in triple negative breast cancer.

AACR-James V. Buzzitta, MD, Family Fund Scholar-in-Training Awards

These awards are presented to early career investigators of meritorious abstracts to be presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026. These awards are made possible through a gracious donation from the James V. Buzzitta, MD Family Fund.

Hsing Hsiang Wang, BS, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taipei, Taiwan. **Abstract 4838.** An EMT-driven Exoc7 splicing switch controls the PRPF19-GATA3 axis to destabilize the hybrid E/M state.

Maria Moozhiyil Korah, MD, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. **Abstract 2201.** Multidimensional Transcriptomic Atlas of Recurrent Uterine Leiomyosarcomas Uncovers Stem-Like Hormonal Cells with High Drug Sensitivity and Improved Patient Outcomes.

AACR-Jim Wittliff Scholar-in-Training Awards

These awards are presented to early career investigators of meritorious abstracts to be presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026. These awards are made possible through a gracious donation from Jim and Mitzie Wittliff.

Jiaqian Luo, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 4036.** Deciphering regulatory drivers of lineage

plasticity and resistance to antibody-drug conjugates in urothelial bladder cancer.

Renyta Moses, BS, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 603.** Variation at the R181 residue of p53 confers loss of p53 DNA binding cooperativity with the cellular protein prenylation enhances persistence and efficacy of CAR-T therapy.

Xinyu Wang, MBBS, BA, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA. **Abstract 6816.** Germline genetic impact on risk of colorectal cancer according to birth cohorts.

Xuejing Yang, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 3983.** Condensate dynamics drive adaptive METTL3 inhibitor resistance.

AACR-Joeys Wings Scholar-in-Training Award

Joey's Wings has graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a meritorious abstract in the field of kidney cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Shikha Gupta, PhD, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA. **Abstract 3160.** Synergistic preclinical activity of dual CDK4/6 and mTORC1 inhibition in translocation renal cell carcinoma.

AACR-Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation Scholar-in-Training Award

The Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation has graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a meritorious abstract in the field of kidney cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Eric W. Martin, MD, PhD, Inova Schar Cancer Institute, Fairfax, VA. **Abstract 2583.** Tumor-informed circulating tumor DNA dynamics reflect aggressive histology and radiologic disease status in renal cell carcinoma.

AACR-June L. Biedler Scholar-in-Training Awards

These awards are presented to authors of meritorious abstracts in the field of drug resistance to be presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026. These awards are made possible through the Estate of Dr. June L. Biedler. The late Dr. Biedler was a dedicated member of AACR and a distinguished scientist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Biedler believed that science communication is a cornerstone to the acceleration of progress.

Yuji Shibata, MD, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 7025.** Mechanisms of zongertinib resistance in HER2-mutant non- small cell lung cancer and potential strategies to overcome resistance.

Jinling Wu, MS, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH. **Abstract 1881.** Understanding evolutionary and ecological mechanisms of sotorasib resistance in KRAS G12C-mutant non-small cell lung cancer.

AACR-Kidney Cancer Association Scholar-in-Training Award

The Kidney Cancer Association graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a meritorious abstract in the field of kidney cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Yize Li, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 7514.** Spatial multimodal and functional dissection reveal a UCHL1-driven malignant program in clear cell renal cell carcinoma.

AACR-KidneyCAN Scholar-in-Training Awards

Early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts focused on kidney cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026 were generously supported by a donation from KidneyCAN.

Minjun Kim, MSc, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada. **Abstract 1202.** Spatially-resolved transcriptome analysis of renal tumors with sarcomatoid/rhabdoid dedifferentiation uncovers underlying biology and new biomarkers relevant to these tumors.

Kimberly S Meza, BA, Brown University, Providence, RI. **Abstract 3174.** Nuvisertib (TP-3654) and Dordaviprone (ONC201) synergize to reduce renal cell carcinoma cell viability.

Kai Yu, PhD, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 3451.** Single-cell transcriptomic insights into tumor and immune dynamics driving resistance to ixazomib combined with gemcitabine and doxorubicin in SMARCB1-deficient renal medullary carcinoma.

AACR-Lillian L. Siu Scholar-in-Training Awards Supported by Dr. Tony and Mrs. Carrie Cheung

Early career investigators who will be a presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026 were generously supported by a donation from Dr. Tony and Mrs. Carrie Cheung.

Rahul S. Bhansali, MD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 7237.** LDB1-dependent enhancer connectivity constrains a metabolic synthetic lethality in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Kelsie Campbell, MPH, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 904.** Developing a polysocial risk score for prostate cancer patients treated with radical prostatectomy.

Jennifer Brain (Crainic), BA, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, Seattle, WA. **Abstract 1788.** Cysteine accumulation as a driver of resistance to bortezomib.

Siddhant U. Jain, PhD, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA. **Abstract 7234.** A SWI/SNF-specific Ig-like domain, SWIFT, is a transcription factor binding hub.

Ukhyun Jo, PhD, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD. **Abstract 1155.** High-Throughput Screening Identifies Synergistic Drug Interactions Between CDK8/19 and DHFR Inhibitors in Rhabdomyosarcoma.

Yunhe Liu, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 1201.** Spatial 3D and multi-omics mapping of diffuse gastric cancer evolution from preinvasive to invasive lesions in CDH1 mutation carriers.

Thangarajeswari Mohan, PhD, University of Texas Health San Antonio, San Antonio, TX. **Abstract 1384.** Aging amplifies oncogenic mutant pik3ca 1047R signaling and accelerates mammary tumorigenesis.

Amartya Pal, MS, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY. **Abstract 1370.** Developing MTX-5-FU-Gem-miR-15a as a multimodal therapeutic strategy to overcome olaparib resistance in epithelial ovarian cancer.

AACR-Margaret Foti Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards

Through a generous gift from The Margaret Foti Foundation, these awards recognize outstanding young investigators who are authors of meritorious abstracts in the fields of brain, immuno-oncology, TME, AI/data science, pancreatic, and pediatric cancer research to be presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Kirtana Arikath, BS, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. **Abstract 4902.** Gut bacteria as hidden architects of stemness maintenance in the progression of pancreatic cancer.

Sergio Attanasio, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 6803.** Targeting mitochondrial complex

I overcomes adaptive response to chemotherapy in advanced pancreatic cancer.

Kevin M. Boehm, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 1292.** Multimodal modeling of detailed cancer subtypes and molecular features from >60,000 patients with co-registered H&E images and clinical tumor sequencing.

Henry Yi Cheng, MS, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 4035.** SWELL1 controls epigenetic methylation, mitochondrial metabolism, and anti-tumor immunity in IDH-mutant gliomas.

Kelly Coutant, PhD, Institute for Cancer Research, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 2072.** Role of the aging on the T-cells in metastatic cutaneous melanoma progression.

Daniel Lagal, PhD, Rush University Medical Center. Chicago, IL. **Abstract 6746.** Biomarker-driven restoration of tumor provisional matrix signaling network reverses resistance to checkpoint inhibition immunotherapy.

Ki Wook Lee, BS, Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon-Si, Gyunggi-Do, South Korea. **Abstract 1465.** Expression-based immune-phenotyping ML model predict ICI response and long-term clinic benefit in lung adenocarcinoma.

Yang Liu, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 6116.** Spatial multi-omics dissection of colorectal cancer micrometastasis.

Lucas A. Mavromatis, ScB, NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 1378.** Development and validation of a parsimonious electronic health record model for pancreatic cancer risk stratification.

Aditya Mohan, BSc, Duke University, Durham, NC. **Abstract 5191.** Multiscale engineering of PTPRZ1 CAR T cells through affinity-tuned binders and modular architecture optimization.

Ariana Musa de Aquino, PhD, Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, MI. **Abstract 6042.** Targeting GABA Signaling in Cancer Associated Fibroblasts to Reduce Immunosuppression in Pancreatic Cancer.

Daniel Rabizadeh, BS, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 95.** PlasmaCHORD- A machine learning method for identifying clonal hematopoiesis variants in liquid biopsies.

Marco Tulio de Freitas Reis, BSC, Rice University & UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 4637.** Alpha-particle radiotherapy combined with anti-CTLA-4 synergistically overcomes radioresistance and induces local and systemic antitumor immunity in PDAC.

Emily Seiden, PhD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. **Abstract 1151.** Targeting High Risk Osteosarcoma: MYC Modulation Alters Metastasis.

Hila Shaim, MD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 5194.** Oncolytic virus infected tumors drive AP-1 and IRF signaling in NK cells to sustain anti tumor activity.

Yuhao Tan, BS, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 6889.** AI-empowered virtual immunopeptidomics uncovers novel regulators of neoantigen immunogenicity.

Ruxandra Tonea, BS, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. **Abstract 1349.** Deletion of host-derived GPNMB positively regulates anti-tumor response by reprogramming tumor-associated macrophages.

Jun Wang, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 7750.** Integration of spatial single cell proteomics and spatial metabolomics reveals tumor microenvironment predictive of immunotherapy response in mucosal melanoma.

Tim Wu, BS, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. **Abstract 462.** Therapy and malignant progression reshape the splicing landscape to generate shared, tumor-wide neoantigens in IDH-mutant gliomas.

Shaobo Yang, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA. **Abstract 4904.** Reprogramming of the non-pathogenic E. coli surface architecture to create next-generation immune engagers for potent cancer therapies.

Yi Zeng, MD, PhD, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 4078.** Vagal sensory neuronal inflammatory memory promotes gastric tumorigenesis through ILC2-mediated epigenetic signaling and the CGRP/Ramp1 axis.

AACR-Marie Tumolo Scholar-in-Training Award

Joe Tumolo graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a meritorious abstract in the field of brain cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Jonathan M. Mitchell, BS, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL. **Abstract 6133.** Horizontal mitochondria transfer stimulates pro-tumorigenic astrocyte reprogramming in glioblastoma.

AACR-Pezcoller Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards

The Pezcoller Foundation supports these awards to enhance participation in the programs and activities of the AACR by early career investigators residing in Europe and to provide these outstanding Scholar-in-Training Awardees with an opporunity to share their research findings with the international cancer research community at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Charles H. Earnshaw, PhD, Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute, Manchester, United Kingdom. **Abstract 2557.** Glucocorticoids inhibit the GARP/TGF-βaxis initiating immune-dependent melanoma control.

Maria Hønholt Jørgensen, MSc, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark. **Abstract 1121.** Detection of postoperative minimal residual disease in colorectal cancer using a novel ultrasensitive whole-genome sequencing-based ctDNA test.

Deborah Lenoci, PhD, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milan, Italy. **Abstract 4897.** Characterization of the intratumoral microbiota in non endemic EBV associated nasopharyngeal carcinoma.

Armando Giuseppe Licata, MSc, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milan, Italy. **Abstract 2866.** Host-microbe-epigenetic crosstalk: Dissecting the role of microbiome, immune dysregulation, and DNA methylation in squamous cell carcinoma.

Vincenzo Davide Pantina, PhD, University of Palermo,Palermo, Sicily, Italy. **Abstract 4722.** Genetic background shapes mitochondrial metabolic adaptations underlying thyroid cancer progression.

AACR-Prostate Cancer Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards

The Prostate Cancer Foundation has graciously donated funds to support early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts in prostate cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Min-Yu Ko, MS, Duke University, Durham, NC. **Abstract 3143.** Co-targeting of two distinct androgen receptor-regulated signaling pathways as a therapeutic approach in prostate cancer.

Aram Lyu, PhD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA. **Abstract 4084.** Dissecting myeloid-driven mechanisms of immunotherapy resistance in prostate cancer bone metastases.

Richa Singh, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 1359.** Cooperativity between DNMT and EZH2 activity drives neuroendocrine phenotype in advanced prostate cancer.

Yang Zheng, MD, PhD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. **Abstract 4743.** Dual inhibition of PIKfyve and FASN reveals therapeutic potential in neuroendocrine prostate cancer.

AACR-Ringer/Blabey Scholar-in-Training Award

Rachel Ringer graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a meritorious abstract in the field of breast cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Fabiana Napolitano, PhD, Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dallas, TX. **Abstract 5759.** Genome-wide CRISPR screen identifies GPX4 as a potential vulnerability in cells treated with PI3Kα-mutant selective inhibitor RLY-2608.

AACR-Sanofi Scholar-In-Training Awards

Sanofi has graciously donated funds to support early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious work in cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Beau Baars, MS, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY. **Abstract 3898.** Profiling tumor selectivity of state- and paralog-selective RAS inhibitors through a signaling inhibition index (SII).

Mariana Do Carmo, BS, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT. **Abstract 6058.** Tumor suppressor gene inactivation shapes the landscape of EGFR-mutant lung adenocarcinoma progression with therapeutic implications.

Alex D. Doan, MS, University of Washington, Seattle WA. **Abstract 7016.** Targeting sialylation promotes anti-tumor immunity in small cell lung cancer.

Sarah Hanache, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 1962.** Epigenetic remodeling of BCOR-PRC1.1 complex dictates response and resistance to IDH inhibitors in AML.

Aamir Khan, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 3232.** NOP16 is a histone mimetic that regulates Histone H3K27 methylation and gene repression.

Pooja Mittal, PhD, USC Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 1956.** Efficacy of DNA methyltransferase inhibition in combination with immune-checkpoint/PARP-inhibitor in colorectal cancer preclinical model.

Mohammad Ali Mohammad Nezhady, PhD, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. **Abstract 2995.** ATRX in-frame fusions promote endogenous chemoresistance programs but yield immunotherapeutic vulnerabilities in neuroblastoma.

Corinne H Molyneux, MSc, University College London, London, United Kingdom. **Abstract 4913.** Single-cell intercellular CRISPR screen reveals stromal regulators of colorectal cancer plasticity.

Joseph S. Toker, MPhil, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom. **Abstract 639.** Distinct microenvironments define subtypes of neuroblastoma.

Reddick R. Walker, BS, The George Washington University, Washington, DC. **Abstract 5578.** Regulation and expression of transposable elements in ovarian cancer.

Bell X. Wu, BS, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 3379.** Small cell lung cancer humanized mouse models identifies unique T cell infiltration immune phenotypes in response to combination immune-radiation therapies.

AACR-Silken Twine Charity Scholar-in-Training Award

An early career investigator who will be a presenting a meritorious abstract focused on pediatric cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026 was generously supported by a donation from the Silken Twine Charity.

Loganayaki Periyasamy, PhD, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK. **Abstract 2650.** Breaking immune silence: Tumor-targeted molecular therapy reprograms the tumor-immune interface in progressive neuroblastoma.

AACR-Thomas W. Kensler Scholar-in-Training Awards Supported by the Davidson-Kensler Family Foundation

The Davidson-Kensler Family Foundation has graciously donated funds to support early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious work in cancer prevention research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Lakshmi Narasimhan Chakrapani, PhD, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. **Abstract 3618.** Obesity-mediated extracellular vesicle secretion as a targetable driver of endometrial cancer initiation and progression.

Jerry T. DeWitt, PhD, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA. **Abstract 4071.** The impact of patient biology on racial disparities in breast cancer outcome.

Patricia A. Erickson, PhD, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Salt Lake City, UT. **Abstract 5036.** Ultra-processed foods and disease-free survival after colorectal cancer diagnosis: findings from the colocare study.

Alzina Koric, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 937.** Breast Cancer Risk Prediction Model for Racially Diverse Women with Benign Breast Disease.

Isaias Leon-Cepeda, MPH, Columbia University, New York, NY. **Abstract 3625.** Central and peripheral adiposity and breast cancer risk in postmenopausal women: A pooled analysis of 11 cohort studies.

Abel Martel Martel, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 7641.** Decoding the spatial architecture of the immune microenvironment in mismatch repair-deficient colorectal carcinogenesis.

Tej Pandya, MBChB, The Francis Crick Institute, London, United Kingdom. **Abstract 7632.** Plasma proteomics for risk prediction of lung cancer.

Ammar D. Siddiqi, MPH, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, San Francisco, CA. **Abstract 5044.** Changes in providers' delivery of cigarette smoking interventions for cancer prevention after the implementation of a tobacco-free workplace program in healthcare centers serving rural and medically underserved areas in Texas.

Karthikkumar Venkatachalam, PhD, University of Oklahoma Health Campus, Oklahoma City, OK. **Abstract 948.** TRAIL inducing drug, ONC201 prevents adenocarcinoma in transgenic $KRAS^{G12V}$ mouse lung cancer model.

Xinan Wang, PhD, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA. **Abstract 3631.** Early BMI Increase as a Predictive Biomarker for Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor ±ChemotherapyEfficacyin Advanced NSCLC: Integrating Clinical, Genomic, and Circulating Proteomic Data.

AACR-Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards

Early career investigators who will be a presenting meritorious abstracts focused on triple negative breast cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026 were generously supported by a donation from the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation.

Seongyeol Park, MD, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. **Abstract 3443.** Tumor and microenvironmental co-evolution in metastatic triple-negative breast cancer during immunotherapy.

Priyanka Sahu, PhD, NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 364.** EMT-driven alterations promote dependency on nuclear kinase VRK1 activity to synergize with immune therapy in triple negative breast cancer.

Yun Yan, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 6188.** Decoding the archetypes and ecotypes of triple-negative breast cancer in responses to chemotherapy.

AACR-VHL Alliance Scholar-in-Training Award

The VHL Alliance graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a meritorious abstract on kidney cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2026.

Dongkook Min, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 372.** ARNT2 and AhR promote resistance to HIF2a inhibitor Belzutifan.